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Worldwide Report

LAW OF THE SEA

No. 155



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GAS STRUCK AT OFFSHORE WELL NEAR BARROW ISLAND

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 25 Mar 81 p 77

[Article by Brian Wills-Johnson]

[Text] West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd's Gorgon No. 1 well, off-shore from Barrow Island, has finally come good with a gas flow of 524,000 cubic metres a day.

Wapet reported yesterday that the flow was achieved through a 13mm choke from the interval 4034 m to 4112m.

Testing was continuing on the well, which was spudded on October 10 last year and had a planned depth of 4200m. It eventually reached 4401m, but successive difficulties held up testing.

The flow is believed to be the first major off-shore gas recovery for almost five years, since the Spar No. 1 produced 311,500 cubic metres of gas a day in September 1976.

Spar No. 1 was about 50km west of Barrow Island, while Gorgon No. 1 is in the same general area, 62 km west-northwest of the island.

Gas Flows

The gas flows are probably too small to be considered capable of development by themselves, but being tantalisingly close to land they have continued to attract exploration effort.

Wapet also announced yesterday that the Dongara No. 24 well had failed to produce measurable gas from the interval 1500 m to 1535m, though the fourth drill-stem test had recovered about three barrels of light oil.

The interval was below the 24m zone from 1469m to 1493m that flowed 153,000 cubic metres of gas a day a week ago.

The well will now be drilled to the original target sands at about 1650m.

CSO: 5200/7530

SRI LANKA

BRIEFS

FISHERIES MEETING--Sri Lanka has been given the task of coordinating the activities of the nonaligned countries in the field of industrial fishing and joint ventures in the fishery industry. This decision was taken at the 3d ministerial meeting of nonaligned nations on cooperation in the field of fisheries held in Havana recently. Sri Lanka's Minister of Fisheries Festus Perera was elected the vice chairman of the conference. Festus Perera, who returned from Havana on Wednesday [22 April] told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation that the honor conferred on Sri Lanka was of much significance because of the abundance of unexploited fishery resources in the Indian Ocean. Among other matters taken up at the Havana conference were the role of the traditional small scale fishermen, shipbuilding, better marketing facilities, training, research and the exchange of scientific and technological information. Four steering committees were also appointed to facilitate cooperation among the nonaligned countries in the field of fishing. [Text] [REK241137 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Apr 81]

CSO: 5200/4914

ARGENTINA

EDITORIAL WARNS AGAINST IRRATIONAL EXPLOITATION OF KRILL

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 23 Mar 81 p 6

[Editorial: "First the Whale, Now Krill"]

[Text] During the course of explorations related to their scientific mission, members of the oceanographic expedition involved in the Biomass Program made an alarming discovery. In those same Antarctic waters where the systematic and relentless extermination of the whale led to the widespread proliferation of krill, more than 30 Soviet ships were seen engaged in catching the tiny crustacean, on which are placed well-founded hopes for the solution of the serious problem of world food supply.

One of the essential purposes of the expedition, made up of scientists and technicians sent by the countries which are signatories of the Antarctic Treaty, was precisely the study of the biological and ecological characteristics of Euphausia superba, as well as the determination of various marine species which depend for their sustenance on the tiny animal--it measures a few centimeters and weighs only 1 gram--which recently was the favorite food of the whales in the southern seas. Its gigantic consumers having been annihilated by the degradation of man, the schools of krill have multiplied to the extent that their current quantity is calculated at around 200 million tons. Given their value as a source of protein, some thought has been given to the industrial exploitation of the nutritional values which are attributed to them, and while some experts estimate that the existing reserves will be enough to cover the needs of a world population three times larger than the current one, others maintain that approximately 60 tons could be caught yearly without there being any alteration in the process of renewal of the species. Still, all the experts agree on the need to expand the studies which have been undertaken to establish the true scope of the possibilities in this matter. Despite this, no consideration of a biological, ecological or human order seemed to weigh on the minds of those who decided that a well-equipped fleet would specialize in krill fishing on a scale which could well prove to be equivalent--in the magnitude of the damage--to the ecological disaster caused by the devastating persecution of the whales, whose massive bodies can be slaughtered and dressed in an instant after having been hauled on board the factory ships.

This unusual exploitation of one of the southern riches which embodies the expectations of a world eager for food was observed from the ship assigned by the

FRG to the expedition, whose task is to carry out one of the most important phases of the Biomass Program, the first international biological experiment in the Antarctic region. The Argentine research vessel "Dr Eduardo L. Holmberg" also took an active part in the expedition.

The episode was revealed in Buenos Aires, on the occasion of the arrival of the German ship, and appears to be the beginning of an irrational and predatory exploitation of the marine resources at a remote distance from Soviet territorial waters.

8956
CSO: 5200/2072

U.S. REVERSAL ON LAW OF SEA LEAVES ACCORD HANGING

PA261430 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 19 Apr 81 p 2-A

[Editorial: "New Stumbling Block at the Law of the Sea Conference"]

[Text] It is regrettable that the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, which had been proceeding despite so many difficulties, should have had to be interrupted because of the U.S. decision to reconsider clauses that had already been negotiated. For the past 2 decades, the countries have been trying to harmonize criteria and some optimists had believed that this year it would have been possible to complete a code of 350 articles on the multiple aspects of the exploitation and use of the seas. The U.S. reversal leaves up in the air the signing of the agreement that was supposed to take place in Caracas in November or December.

The two most outstanding points of controversy are: the extension of maritime jurisdiction to 200 miles and the utilization of the seabed.

As far as the former is concerned, a compromise appeared to have been reached. As is known, no country can logically uphold the anachronistic measurement of 3 miles, established in a de facto manner and without an agreement 2 centuries ago because it was the length of a cannon shot at the time. Little by little, most countries have agreed to extend to 12 miles the limit of the so-called "territorial sea," that is, the maritime distance considered to be a complement or an extension of the nation's territory, followed by a maritime belt under national jurisdiction for the utilization and protection of resources therein, which was called the "patrimonial sea" and now is more properly called the "exclusive economic zone." This zone would go out 188 miles, making a total of 200. This is, therefore, a common denominator that encompasses, as can be seen, different concepts, but which apparently has the support of enough countries to permit the adopting of a resolution.

Peru's doctrine is not exactly the same as the above. The historic supreme decree of 1 August 1947, issued by Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero, the then constitutional president and illustrious jurist, established national sovereignty and jurisdiction over the continental shelf and sea adjacent to our coasts to a distance of 200 miles without further discrimination. However, in order to obtain a consensus and to be practical--since we are basically interested in defending our natural resources and preserving the lives and the source of food of our inhabitants--it was agreed to support the majority criteria of an "exclusive economic

zone," which does not preclude our continuing to insist on our position in the future. Our 1979 Constitution preferred not to use the term "territorial sea." Article 98 speaks of "maritime dominion," which encompasses the sea adjacent to our coasts, as well as the seabed and subsoil, to a distance of 200 miles, over which Peru exercises sovereignty and jurisdiction without, of course, detriment to free international communication.

A greater difficulty is involved in the topic of the utilization of undersea areas. This is, apparently, what has led to the U.S. reversal. The countries of what is improperly called the Third World, which includes Peru, maintain that beyond the 200 miles, that is, outside national jurisdictions, the sea and ocean beds and the resources therein should be the common heritage of humanity. Their exploration, conservation and exploitation should be carried out, therefore, exclusively for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all countries, not just the strongest. "It is essential for these activities to be carried out under an international regime that includes an appropriate mechanism for guaranteeing common participation in the administration of the area and of the benefits derived from it."

The most industrialized and economically powerful countries, and with them their large transnational enterprises, however, wish to insure their own control of the exploitation because they alone have the technology and economic strength to effect it. It is believed that beneath the seas there are fabulous quantities of manganese, iron, copper, nickel, cobalt and biological, chemical and geological treasures, the extraction of which seems today to be an illusion. It is therefore not a matter of the present but of the future. Only great consortiums could attempt it today. But the developing world has a right to participate tomorrow in the distribution of these riches and for this reason it advocates the establishment of an equitable international regime that includes an international control mechanism.

The issue is so complicated, the topics of the Law of the Sea Conference are so varied and the countries involved, in addition to being heterogeneous, have such diverse political, economic, social and geographic situations, that one cannot be very optimistic. In any case, it is necessary to continue to seek an agreement. Let us see whether the meeting scheduled for Geneva in August will mend that which has been thwarted now in New York and at least arrive at some bases that are equitable for all.

CSO: 5200/2085

REPORTAGE ON SPANISH-MOROCCAN FISHING TREATY

Renewed Negotiations on Fishing

Casablanca AL BAYANE in French 1 Apr 81 pp 1, 3

[Excerpts] Late Tuesday morning Mr M'Hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, left Rabat heading a delegation bound for Madrid.

Accompanied by Azzedine Guessous, the minister of commerce, industry, merchant marine, and maritime fisheries, Boucetta told the press that this visit falls within the framework of bilateral cooperation and that it is a follow-up to the visit made recently by a Spanish delegation to our country.... It is anticipated that Azzedine Guessous will pursue negotiations in the fisheries area which have been started during the last few weeks....

Additional Report on Negotiations

Casablanca AL BAYANE in French 2 Apr 81 p 3

[Excerpts] ...Regarding maritime traffic between the two countries, the minister of commerce, industry, merchant marine and maritime fisheries indicated that the goal of the two delegations is to put into effect the bilateral agreement which up to now has remained wishful thinking. "The two parties are committed to putting this passenger traffic agreement into actual practice," he said.

The first comments the negotiations have given rise to are based on a positive development, the fact that Spain has finally agreed to look at the entire body of Spanish-Moroccan disputes...

Signing of a Fishing Agreement Between Spain and Morocco

At the last minute it was learned that on Wednesday morning Azzedine Guessous, the minister of commerce, industry, merchant marine and maritime fisheries, and Jaime Lamo de Espinosa, the Spanish minister of agriculture and fisheries, signed a new fishing agreement which is to last 1 year and enter into effect starting 1 April. This agreement was called very satisfactory to both parties.

Present at the signing ceremony besides the members of the two delegations were Mr Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation; Jose Pedro Perez Llorca, Spanish minister of foreign affairs; Mr Robles Piquer, secretary of state in the Foreign Affairs Ministry; Miguel Aldasoro, secretary of state in the Fisheries Ministry; Messrs Maati Jorio and Alfonso de la Torre, Morocco's ambassador in Madrid and Spain's ambassador in Rabat, and Mohamed Boucetta, minister plenipotentiary at the Moroccan embassy in Madrid....

Agreement Signed

Casablanca AL BAYANE in French 3 Apr 81 pp 1, 3

[Excerpts] Azzedine Guessous, minister of commerce, industry, merchant marine and maritime fisheries, arrived on Wednesday in Marrakesh from Madrid where he signed a new agreement in the maritime fisheries area with his Spanish counterpart.

On his arrival at the airport, Guessous made the statement to the press that Spanish-Moroccan relations had experienced a certain amount of tension these last few weeks because Spain tended to view the negotiations as limited solely to the maritime fisheries area....

"After several weeks of talks we were able to get our viewpoint recognized, and this culminated in the signing of a new agreement on maritime fishing which is to last 1 year. We also reviewed trade, financial and social relations." The foregoing is the substance of the minister's statement. He added that several dates have been set for starting up cooperative effort so that it leads to satisfactory results.

Guessous also stated that among the points on which the two parties agree was the reservation of a 2 km-wide fishing zone extending all along the Atlantic coast for Moroccan fishermen without modern fishing equipment to avoid any competition with Spanish fishermen who have modern equipment at their disposal.

In the financial area, Guessous stressed that Morocco has obtained a sizeable amount of aid from Spain for financing development projects in the maritime fishing area and in other sectors of the Moroccan economy.

9631

CSO: 3200/4946

SIERRA LEONE

FISHERIES PILOT PROJECT BOAT LAUNCHED

Freetown DAILY MAIL in English 20 Apr 81 p 4

[Text] The first of the fisheries Pilot Project, "The Bongo Boat" has been formally launched at Tombo near Freetown.

Financed by the Federal Republic of Germany the project is undertaken by the Fisheries division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the German Technical Cooperation programme to further develop low-cost traditional fishing techniques and marketing of fish.

Launching the project, the Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Mr. D.F. Shears who is member of Parliament for the area outlined the various items of assistance rendered by the German Government in the fields of transportation, road construction, agriculture and education.

He said the Fisheries project will provide, among other things, improved water supply and health services for the people of Tombo.

Mr. Shears appealed to the people to encourage and co-operate with the Project Officers who, he said, were in Tombo to assist in improving their living conditions.

While outlining the project's benefit, the Project Manager, Mr. Uwe Beck, emphasised the significance of fishermen in the economic development of Sierra Leone and noted the large amounts of fish provided by the local fisheries at very reasonable cost.

He emphasised the need to improve the living conditions of the people to halt the drift to the city in search of jobs.

In thanking all those who assisted in building the boat, the Village Headman, Mr. J. S. Macarthy, described the ceremony as the beginning of profitable business relations between the Fisheries Pilot Project and the people of Tombo.

CSO: 5200/4953

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